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Date of Signature and Deposit: November 6, 2006

  
Zhibin Ren, Reg. No. 47,897

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Mark Cook, et al.

Date: November 6, 2006

Serial No.: 10/777,825

Group Art Unit: 1623

Filed: 02/11/2004

Examiner: Traviss C. McIntosh

Title: METHODS FOR HEAT-STABILIZING  
PROTEINS WITH SPECIFIC BINDING  
ACTIVITIES

File: 960296.00097

### RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to an office action dated October 6, 2006 in the above-identified application, which imposed a requirement for restriction on applicant, applicant provisionally selects Group I (claims 1-20) and further provisionally elects species of trehalose and anti-PLA<sub>2</sub> antibody for examination. Claims 1-3 and 5-20 encompass the elected invention.

The restriction requirement is traversed in that such requirements are optional in all cases. MPEP § 803. If the search and examination of a set of claims can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they may arguably be directed at distinct or independent inventions. MPEP § 803. Applicant respectfully submits that groups I and II claims are directed at highly related subject matter and thus can be examined together without serious burden. On the contrary, it will be unnecessarily burdensome on both applicant and the patent office to consider the highly related subject matter in several separate patent applications.

No fee is believed due in connection with this submission. However, if a fee is due in this or any subsequent response, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 17-0055.